

BOOTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR 1911,

— OF THE —

*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH*

AND

*SANITARY INSPECTOR.*



*To the Bootle Rural District Council.*

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## **Annual Report for 1911.**

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RAVENGLASS,

*February, 1912.*

Gentlemen,

I beg to place before you my Annual Report for 1911.

The area of the District is 90,413 acres; population, 5,664; number of inhabited houses, 1,098.

The Birth-rate, 19·6, is slightly lower than the average for the past ten years; the Death-rate, 11·12, is considerably lower than the average for the past ten years. The Death-rate for children under one year compares unfavourably with the figures of last year, but it is hardly a true comparison, as three out of the seven deaths recorded were cases of infants prematurely born who only survived one hour; if we deduct these cases the figures are the same as last year, and are good for any district.

*Zymotic Diseases.*—Have again been very prevalent during the year, more especially Scarlet Fever, Measles, and Whooping Cough; one death resulted, due to Measles. The usefulness of the Joint Hospital at Millom has been demonstrated in the matter of prompt isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever.

*Water Supply.*—Is excellent as far as it goes. It would be an advantage to the district if this supply could be extended to Santon Village and parts of Eskdale and Bootle.

*Rivers and Streams.*—The pollution of these is slight, especially when their character is considered.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—A considerable amount of work of this description has been carried out during the year by your Sanitary Inspector, with satisfactory results.

*Closet Accommodation and Scavenging.*—These subjects have been very fully dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector in his Report, and his remarks are very much to the point.

*Sanitary Inspections of District.*—This work has been carried out by your Sanitary Inspector in a very thorough manner—for details on the subject I will refer you to his Report.

*Schools.*—Are regularly visited. The sanitary accommodation of several Schools in the District has been much improved during the year; similar improvements might, with advantage, be made at the “Low” School, Eskdale, the “Hill” School, Millom. Where Schools have been closed on account of Zymotic disease, they have in all cases been thoroughly fumigated.

*Food.*—(a) *Milk Supply.*—Is ample, and, in my own experience, good; it is all produced within the district.

(b) *Other Foods.*—No unsound food has been found, the sanitary conditions of premises where foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, are satisfactory, though not always ideal; the Slaughter Houses are regularly inspected, and all well conducted.

(c) *Sale of Food and Drugs Act.*—These are administered by the Police.

*Housing.*—Under the Housing Act, 1910, 54 premises were inspected.

*Workshops, Workplaces, etc.*—41 are on the register, and have been regularly visited; the conditions obtaining are satisfactory. Your Sanitary Inspector has drawn up a comprehensive report, dealing with the details under the above headings, of which he has a more intimate knowledge, as he is able to devote his whole time to the work; and I think his Report is a very able one, and should be of use to your Council.

I append Tables of vital Statistics,

And am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. A. JOHNSTON,

M.O.H. Bootle Rural District Council.

TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Popula- tion estima- ted to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.					
		Unreor- rected Number	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents not register- ed in the District.	8	Under 1 Yr. of Age.		At all Ages.			
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	10	11		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9					12	13
1906	5469		98	16.9	64	12.3				8	81.6	64	12.3	
1907	5469		90	17.4	79	15.3				7	77.7	79	15.3	
1908	5469		118	23.02	77	15.2				9	76.2	77	15.2	
1909	5050		121	23.9	73	14.4				5	41.3	73	14.4	
1910	5050		109	21.5	78	15.4				4	36.7	79	15.6	
1911	5664		111	19.6	63	11.12		2		7	77.1	65	11.4	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 90,413.

Total Population at all ages, 5654 ; Number of inhabited houses, 1,098 ; Average number of persons per house, 5.1.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the Deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
<p>Workhouse, Bootle</p> <p>Joint Hospital at Millom</p>		<p>Garlands Asylum, Carlisle</p>

Is the Union Workhouse within the District ?—Yes.

**TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

Isolation Hospital—Millom & Bootle Joint Hospital.

Total available beds—20.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—3.



TABLE III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages, whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the District.
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All Causes { Certified ..	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65	
Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Enteric Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Measles .. ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Influenza .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	4	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	4	
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cancer, malignant disease ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4	
Bronchitis .. ..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	
Broncho-Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Pneumonia (all other forms)	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	
Alcoholism .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	
Suicides .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Other Defined Diseases ..	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown .. ..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	
	65	4	1	1	0	2	2	6	4	65	



RAVENGLASS,

*February, 1912.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Bootle Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration a report upon the Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1911.

You will find mention in it many points, which, in a report addressed to you alone, would be superfluous, but I have to bear in mind that the report is intended to convey an idea of the Sanitary condition and progress of your district not only to yourselves, but also to the Local Government Board and the County Council, to whom copies have to be forwarded.

This being the first occasion you have had a report submitted to you upon the year's work by the Sanitary Inspector separately, I have confined myself to the various headings laid down by the Local Government Board, which, I trust, will be of interest to you and a benefit to the District.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours Obediently,

W. BRITTON-JONES, M.I.H., C.R.S.I., R.P.C., ETC.

*Water.*—Speaking generally, the District is extremely well supplied with various schemes of good, pure water, all upon the “gravitation” principal, and of an adequate quantity, although in common with a great many other districts, the past summer, being so dry, was a very trying one for all water supplies, causing great anxiety. Fortunately we did not have to shorten the hours of supply at any of the villages which are supplied by the District Council. The necessity of obtaining augmentation to one or two supplies was proved, and arrangements were made forthwith at “Whicham,” where alterations have been made at the head works, with the result that the supply can now be considerably assisted from a mountain stream at a moment’s notice should the necessity arise.

Arrangements are well in hand for the augmentation of the Bootle supply, this has been rendered absolutely necessary by the extension of the mains by rather more than a mile to supply buildings and a testing station which the Home Office are experimenting with near to Eskmeals Railway Station. This supply is now within practical distance to Eskmeals Station and the village of Newbiggin, both places being in need of a supply of water.

Several farms below Bootle Station are badly in need of water, and as this could easily be obtained from the Bootle mains, this matter should be pressed: I am pleased to say that steps are being taken in this direction.

As previously reported, the villages of Eskdale and Santon Bridge stand badly in need of a water supply, and it is regrettable that the owners cannot be induced to avail themselves of the efforts to provide a supply to these villages: two attempts to provide a scheme for Eskdale having been made without success.

The supply to Drigg and Seascale continues of the same high order: a report by the Analyst (Dr. R. Hellon) was published during the year, and gave entire satisfaction.

Once or twice the intake at Limbeck got choked during heavy storms, causing temporary inconvenience to the consumers, but this will be entirely overcome when the large storage reservoir is in working order at Muncaster.

*Rivers and Streams.*—The rivers and streams in your District are of such a swift character that it would require very serious pollution to effect them to any appreciable extent. I am pleased to be in a position to say that nothing of a serious nature has been discovered during the year, several cases of drains discharging into streams have been attended to, and the nuisances abated.

The most serious case at present is the discharge of a drain from the slaughter-house at Bootle, the owner of which has recently put a drain to discharge into the stream, close to a drinking place : this is before you at present.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—There has been very little work under this heading carried out by the District Council during the year, an extension to a sewer at Ravenglass being the only public work done.

It is satisfactory to record that since the completion of the sewerage works at Seascale there has not been a single complaint from there ; it is all the more gratifying in view of the very dry season last year, and that it was a record year for visitors, which would naturally have led to complaints had there been the slightest reason : the improvements have more than justified the outlay.

One or two villages stand in need of a system of sewers, the “ Hill,” Millom, being, perhaps, the worst : many of the houses being of the cottage type, there is very little land in connection with the houses upon which to deal with the sewage. This question was considered, and it was thought the time was inopportune, having in view the fact that many houses are vacant in this village.

I would add that there has been a considerable amount of private house drainage carried out during the year, and in connection with this work I have found the drain-testing machine of great assistance, it is a very useful and reliable means of ascertaining the state of the drainage either upon old or new work : the workmen know that all work has to stand the test, and this has been the means of obtaining a far higher standard of work than hitherto ; it is also useful in convincing owners of defects, the escaping smoke being absolute proof.

*Closet Accommodation.*—Whenever the sewerage system permits, water-closets are suggested, failing which dry earth-closets are suggested ; unfortunately, in some of the older parts of the district, and in isolated places, one finds the objectionable privies with large pits, having an accumulation of filth of a very long period, and, generally speaking, these pits are without coverings, thus the rain and sun considerably add to the nuisance : these are gradually being remedied.



*Scavenging.*—This subject does not receive the attention its importance warrants, in one village only, that of Seascale, is any serious attempt made to deal satisfactorily with this question : here there is a contract entered into for the removal of household refuse twice per week, which, at present, is undertaken by a contractor who attends to the work very satisfactorily.

The disposal is by means of tipping the refuse in an old peat hole in a field well away from the village ; the greatest disadvantage found has been the large quantity of paper which is collected, and when deposited at the pit gets blown about, making the roads and fields very unsightly, and an element of danger to health. The Council are issuing notices to the various householders advising the the destruction of this paper by burning.

The only other village in which any system of scavenging exists is the "Hill," Millom : here a contract is entered into for the removal of the contents of the privies, etc. During the past year I have had to draw the Contractor's attention to the large accumulation of filth allowed to gather, which, no doubt, was due to some occupiers wishing the contents for manural purposes for their gardens. I have had to point out that this state of affairs cannot be allowed, and that under no circumstances can these accumulations be permitted around the houses.

*Sanitary Inspection of District.*—In the course of ordinary routine work, something like 250 premises have been visited during the year (several premises required to be visited many times while remedial work was in progress), and 111 sanitary amendments were made, the following being a summary :—

Number of drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	52
„ houses provided with new water supplies	...	...	...	7
„ new w.c.'s provided	...	...	...	9
„ refuse receptacles provided	...	...	...	3
„ houses cleaned, disinfected, or lime-washed	...	...	...	25
„ houses found with defective ventilation under floors and remedied	...	...	...	3
„ sundry nuisances abated	...	...	...	12
<i>Total</i>				111

Several courtyards have also been repaired or re-laid.

It is, indeed, gratifying to be in a position to report so many improvements without having had to take extreme action in a single case.

The principle improvements have been the provision of water-closets to the Hospital Block at the Workhouse, Bootle, together with a bath-room and a hot-water supply.

The draining of the Arnaby Farm will be a great improvement when completed.

*Schools.*—The various public schools throughout the district are regularly visited, and there is a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the out-offices.

New accommodation has been built at Capt. Shaw's and Hycemoor Schools, Bootle; and considerable alterations are contemplated at Whicham Schools, where it is intended to put in water-closets in place of the present objectionable pits; new lavatories and urinals, together with the building of a septic tank, are also intended at these Schools.

The sanitary accommodation at the "High" Schools, Eskdale, has been improved, and these are now satisfactory.

I regret to have to report that no attempt has been made to improve the conditions of the "Low" Schools, at Eskdale, where the closets are of the privy pattern; there is no water supply whatever, and the playground is very dirty and defective.

The condition of the "Hill" Schools, Millom, was brought to your notice, and the suggestions made are still being considered by the Managers.

The Schools at Bootle (Hycemoor) and Irton have been fumigated after the Scarlet Fever, that at the "Hill," Millom, after Measles, and "Muncaster" Schools after Whooping Cough, during the year.

*Foods: Milk Supply.*—There are no milk shops in the district, the milk is usually carried direct from the farm to the consumer; the supply is abundant and wholesome.

As previously reported to the Council, the various dairies in our district are a pleasure to see, being well kept: this is, undoubtedly, a tribute to the women-folk about the farms.

Speaking as to the cow-sheds, one cannot find fault with the way premises are kept as with the construction of the sheds: in many cases these are far too low, ill ventilated, and very badly lighted; one finds such a tendency upon the occupiers' part to plug up the ventilators they have, they say the cattle are in great draughts,

thus the necessity to stop up the vents. To a certain extent, this is reasonable, no doubt from the unsuitability of the design or position of the ventilators; but the result, after the cattle have stood in the sheds all day, is most objectionable. I feel sure this could easily be remedied by a very simple ventilator which prevents a direct current of air into the shed, but yet admits air somewhat similar to that used in public buildings.

The absence of any provision for personal cleanliness of the milkers is another thing I find very lacking within the district, but, as I previously remarked, the business of milk production (to be sold as milk) is really so small in the district that one is almost at a loss to know what to recommend. The present regulations are dated 1890, and are far too easy that we should certainly have to revise these before we could effect any great improvement; perhaps the present would be a rather inopportune time to do this, in view of a Bill now before Parliament, which, if passed, will certainly place very much greater responsibilities upon Councils for the protection of the milk supply.

Drainage of the courtyards round some of the shippens leave very much to be desired: one finds in quite a number of places that liquid manure has to find its way a very considerable distance before reaching its place of disposal, and frequently over ill-paved surfaces, and thus practically everyone, as well as the cattle, have to waddle through the foul matter; this, naturally, tends to make the cattle as well as the sheds much dirtier than there is any need for.

The various farmers, etc., do not seem to realise the necessity of being registered before starting to sell milk, etc., and unless I happen to find out by enquiries, I never know who should be registered; this will certainly have to be taken up in the near future.

*Other Foods.*—The slaughter-houses are regularly inspected, and these are well conducted.

No necessity has arisen for seizure of unwholesome food during the year.

*Food and Drugs Act.*—In this district the Food & Drugs Act is administered by the Police.

*Housing.*—A commencement of the house-to-house inspection of the district, under the Housing Act, has entailed a considerable amount of work, the isolated nature of the dwellings in our district naturally adds to the work.



A considerable proportion of the property is of the farmhouse type, together with the necessary farm labourers' cottagers ; generally speaking, the property is very old and nearly always requires some attention, either in the way of ventilation or repairs : small casement windows being the greatest defect found.

I am pleased to say I have not yet had occasion to report any premises to the Local Authority with a view of closure, the owners being very willing to do all that is reasonable, without resorting to pressure ; although, sometimes, owners hesitate before expending money upon property in the agricultural districts, the rents obtainable being so low do not warrant large outlays upon the cottage property, however, considerable improvements are being made in the properties inspected so far.

Number of premises inspected...	...	...	...	...	54
„ informal notices served	...	...	...	...	41

for all of which the work is in hand, or satisfactory arrangements for the same to be done at suitable times have been made.

In two parishes only, that of the Hill, Millom, and Eskdale, can it really be said that houses are adequate, although there is little or no overcrowding, but one never finds a cottage standing empty.

The houses are usually kept clean, and have plenty of air space.

An effort is being made at Waberthwaite to provide cottages for workmen by the owners of the Granite Quarry : here a start has been made to build eight cottages, these will replace some wooden huts, and will be a great improvement.

There has been a great amount of work in the supervision of New Buildings : some 25 new buildings, or alterations to domestic buildings, having been erected during the year. Great attention is paid to this work, in each case the "bottoms for the foundations," "the foundations," "the damp courses," "ventilation under the floors," have all to be inspected in the course of the erection of the building ; instruction as to the laying of the drains, and the testing of these when laid, have also to be seen to : this has been the means of considerably improving the standard of work.

*Factory and Workshops Act.*—There are some 41 workplaces upon the register, and these are regularly visited during the year ; generally speaking, the number employed are very small, perhaps one or two employees. Any amendments found necessary have always received attention without the slightest trouble.

Three cases of premises requiring lime-washing were noticed, and these were all attended to.

